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Life or Death Decisions: online engagement using films to explore advance care planning

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LIFE OR DEATH DECISIONS

Online engagement using film to explore advance care planning

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Within the United Kingdom, despite policy drives to increase the rates of **Advance Care Planning (ACP)** it is not widely used by the general public and there are many misconceptions around ACP.

The Open University has a commitment to providing free open educational resources that draw on the research expertise of its staff and are delivered via **OpenLearn**.

Life or Death Decisions is an online interactive that was created at The Open University, together with colleagues from **Elucidat**, to introduce the general public to ACP.

Intervention

The interactive focuses around a bespoke 10-minute film about a woman (Jane) who has a sudden medical emergency to explore what the people around her should do.

At key points where a dilemma is posed, the film is paused, and learners are asked a multiple-choice question about how the people around Jane should react.

Viewers select their answer, after which the interactive reveals how others have responded. Brief information, from an expert's opinion is also provided at key times about ACP and decision-making related to the dilemma.



Issues covered include: should Jane go into hospital, should she have an operation, and who should be involved in the associated decision-making. The interactive provides information about ACP, how it can be done, and who can be involved, including clarifying the concept of 'next of kin'.

Methods

We captured data including: total learners; completion rates; learner country; and time spent using '**Life or Death Decisions**'.

Results

Since its launch in September 2018

over 2,000 unique learners have engaged with the interactive (as of February 2020); many are re-visiting the site.



Of these learners, **15%** complete the entire interactive; which takes approximately **10 minutes** to complete.

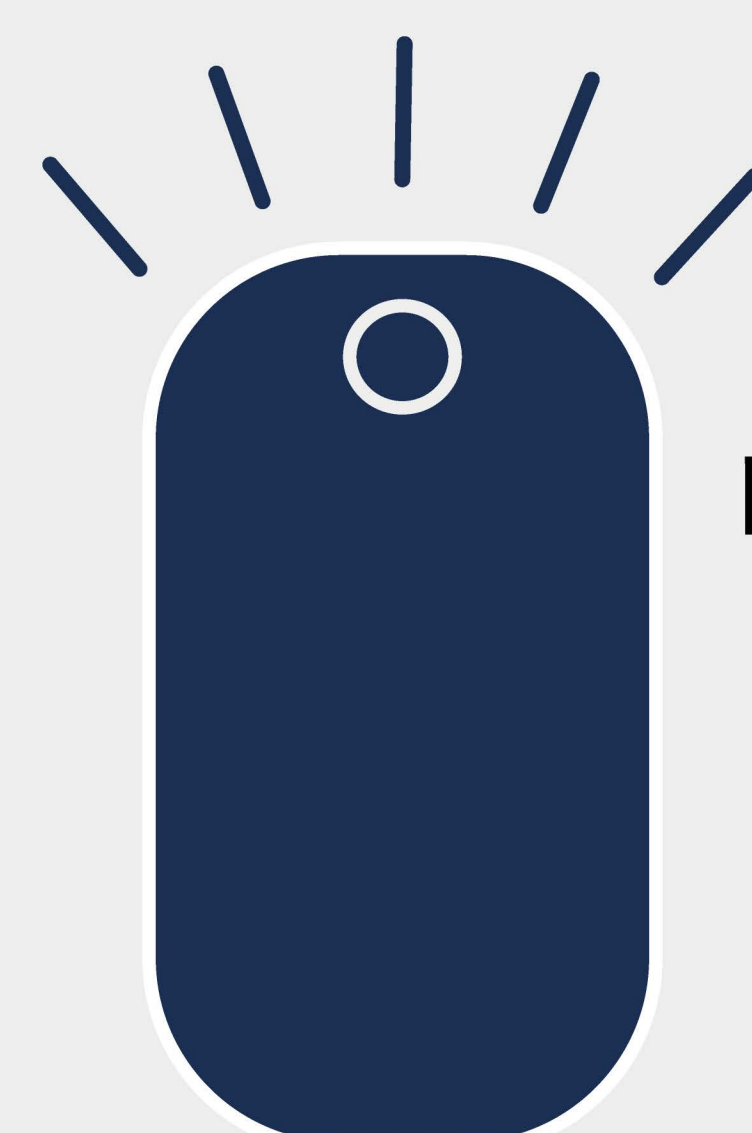
Most learners are from the United Kingdom.

Almost one in five (16%) learners are clicking through to find out more about studying death and dying at The Open University.



Conclusions

The **Life or Death Decisions** interactive provides a means to teach the public about advance care planning using a novel and engaging dramatised film. Learner use is comparable with similar interactives via **OpenLearn**.



Poster designed by: Ana Collins

Access to the interactive here:

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/life-and-death-decisions>

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OpenLearn

